







AN HISTORICAL SKETCH  
OF THE  
TORONTO  
YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN  
ASSOCIATION



ISSUED IN CONNECTION WITH  
THE OPENING OF THE  
NEW CENTRAL BUILDING  
TORONTO, 1913



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## THE PRESIDENTS FROM 1864 TO 1913

1st President.....	ROBERT BALDWIN.....	Feb. 1864—Nov. 1864	
2nd President.....	PROF. DANIEL WILSON.....	1864—	1870
3rd President.....	JOHN MACDONALD.....	1870—	1877
4th President.....	S. H. BLAKE (Hon.).....	1877—	1886
5th President.....	STAPLETON CALDECOTT.....	1886—	1889
6th President.....	ROBERT KILGOUR.....	1889—	1892
7th President.....	HON. J. J. MACLAREN.....	1892—	1894
8th President.....	HON. S. H. BLAKE.....	1894—	1899
9th President.....	ROBERT KILGOUR.....	1899—	1905
10th President.....	G. TOWER FERGUSON.....	1905—	1907
11th President.....	WILLIAM GARSIDE.....	1907—	1910
12th President.....	E. R. WOOD.....	1910—	....



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## CHAPTER I.

### INTRODUCTORY



TODAY is rooted in yesterday. The harvest of the autumn presupposes the plowing and sowing of the spring. The men of the present are the inheritors of the past and are never the earners of their best possessions. No nationality, university, business, church, association is wise to forget its debt to the men who wrought in the times of its beginning. The men responsible for the guiding of the vessel, as it safely bears its present cargo, ought to remember gratefully those who laid the ship's keel and made the anvils ring in patient preparation.

It is because the Directors of the Toronto Young Men's Christian Association feel keenly the debt they owe to their predecessors that they have caused this historical sketch to be prepared. At best it is but a sketch, and shows only the outlines of what may be seen. It will require a sanctified imagination on the part of the reader to make it throb and pulsate with life. For, after all, a Young Men's Christian Association is, in its essence, not external and visible; but the expression of a great, vital, spiritual purpose. To understand any history of it one must be able to think and feel in the terms of the heart. Behind the co-operation of men in such an undertaking are high Christian ideals of citizenship; personal devotion to Christ and the spread of His kingdom in the world; the love and anxiety of parents; the wish of men who have felt the handicap of limited opportunity to help their brothers to a better life; the sense in those possessed of means of an obligation to society for its use. If one reads aright, and has ears for it, he shall hear above the merry sounds of boys at play in buildings, or on athletic fields, the tender prayers of mothers at home and the talk around the fireside as the son's prospects, habits, destiny are discussed.



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The fact is that ledgers and diaries, big books with pages full of carefully inscribed records, or even the newspapers, are not the places to discern the meaning of such a movement as the Young Men's Christian Association. The tables of the hearts of men are the imperishable books in which the real history is graven deep. All that we can hope to do is to stir up the minds of those who read what we have written to a penetration of this hidden significance.

It is impossible to understand any organization without knowing something of the times in which it lived and out of which it sprang. This is pre-eminently true of the Young Men's Christian Association.

There were two great compelling forces through which God worked in producing the Association movement, now regarded as a great social and religious force. The first was the rapid rise of industrialism and the consequent marvellous growth of modern cities; the invention of modern machinery, the adaptation of applied science to the production of the necessities of life, and the multiplication of means of rapid communication which changed the emphasis in the world's life and led to the inevitable congestion in great centres of population. Within the cities themselves men tended to get together in business, in social life and in co-operative effort of all kinds. This urban development was one of the great causes which made inevitable some united effort to organize young men for aggressive Christian work among their fellows, for with huge aggregations of people always come the problems and peculiar temptations of the crowd. Life grew increasingly complex, the city became attractive beyond what it had been, the youths of the countryside felt the lure of a life which had in it the charm of novelty and which offered great pecuniary rewards. It was this magnetism of the great Metropolis, of the vast and unknown London, which led George Williams, with his heart on fire with love for a new-found Saviour, to begin his career in a linendraper's establishment under the shadow of St. Paul's Cathedral; it was in what Sir George Williams's biographer has called the day of the young man. The location was symbolic. On one side the place of business, on the other the place of



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worship and religion. They seemed to be, and were, in competition for the life of young men. The problem was to lead men to take the teaching and spirit of the Master over into the life of trade and commerce. Williams gathered other young men who had a genuine religious experience, and who, like himself, were keenly alive to the temptations of young men, and formed the first Young Men's Christian Association in 1844. Shall we say that God was any less in the great historic changes which have brought men together in modern cities, than He was in the hearts of these other earnest men who discovered in the presence of these crowds of youths both the imperative need, and the glorious opportunity, for Christian service?



THE RT.-HON. R. L. BORDEN, LL.D., LAYING CORNER-STONE OF  
NEW CENTRAL BUILDING, MAY 14th, 1912



THE PRESENT STAFF OF THE TORONTO ASSOCIATIONS



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## CHAPTER II.

### THE TORONTO ASSOCIATION OF 1853

THE solidarity of the race is a modern phrase which stands for a demonstrable fact. The world has a unity now that it could never have known without the inventions of modern science. Hands stretching "across the sea" would have reached in vain but for steamships and cables and railways. This world-wide unity is shown in various ways, but nowhere more clearly than in the manifestations of life in cities. In the early fifties this consciousness of unity was beginning to appear, travel between Europe and America took the citizens of each into the land of the other, the press became more powerful and better organized. It was not strange, therefore, that the attempt to promote Christian work by and amongst young men in London should attract attention upon this side of the Atlantic. If there was a need in the Old Land there was a more urgent one here. Unbound by the traditions of a hoary past, urban life has always been more rapid in lands that are new, and in its very speed lies one of its greatest perils. This condition for ever sounds its challenge to those who love Jesus Christ. The story of the transfer of the Association idea from the Old World to the New need not be told here, though behind all that early Association history in Canada are the men and the methods of London, and from that direction came at first the strongest determining influences.

It is seldom that any type of social or religious effort springs at once into full life. There is at first a faint uncertain feeling after a solution of some problem, a groping after the final form,

"Like as a manakin feels its way  
Out from the shores of the great unknown,  
Into the light of day."

The English Nasmith Societies, while not the organic forerunner of the Association

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movement, were, nevertheless, such an expression of desire to do religious work for young men, and they spread to Canada and had been labouring in Montreal before the first Young Men's Christian Association was organized in this country. To Montreal belongs the honour of forming the first Young Men's Christian Association upon the continent of America.

It was in 1831 that David Nasmith, the founder of the City Mission in London, came to Canada, and on August 26th of that year the first Young Men's Society was formed there in the Baptist Chapel in St. Helen Street, the same building in which, at a later date, the Young Men's Christian Association was formed. This Society continued its work for several years, and one of its members who visited London saw the work of the Young Men's Christian Association and brought back news of its methods and success. The suggestion to organize found prepared soil amongst those who had already become especially interested in banding together young men for Christian work in the Nasmith Societies, and on November 19th, 1851, the Association of Montreal was formed. It is interesting to recall that the Rev. F. A. Marling, father of the present Chairman of the International Committee, presided at the meeting for organization.

In 1853 Mr. John Holland, who had been the Recording Secretary of the Nasmith Society in Montreal, removed to Toronto, and in December of that year organized a Young Men's Christian Association and became its Secretary; he also represented the Association at the first International Convention in Buffalo in 1854, when he was the only Canadian delegate. The meeting for organization was held in Mr. Holland's house on King Street, between Toronto Street and the old Methodist Book Room, and regular meetings were afterwards held in the Mechanics' Institute on Court Street. This first Association had but a feeble life, and when several Toronto churches organized their own young men, interest in the general movement gradually languished. After working for about four years the Association was disbanded, and not until 1864 was any further effort made to reorganize. The work of this first Association was chiefly devotional and evangelistic, conforming in this respect to the Nasmith Societies and to the parent



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Association in London. A fairly clear idea of what the scope of the work was in those early days is to be had by perusing the Constitution, especially those portions which relate to its objects and methods, and those which name and define the duties of the various Committees. The object is thus stated:

“The object of this Association shall be to unite the young men of the respective Evangelical denominations in this city, for mutual edification and mental improvement, as well as more effectually to benefit others, as they may have opportunity.”

The following is the basis:

“This Association adopts, as the Basis of its proceedings, those fundamental principles of Christianity on which all Protestant Churches agree, and will not admit any intermeddling with those matters on which such Churches differ.”

There were two classes of members, Ordinary and Honorary, and the Managing Committee and the officers must be members of some evangelical Church; the annual fee was five shillings. The standing Committees were: On Rooms and Distribution; On Lectures, Essays and Debates; On Ways and Means; The Vigilance Committee, and a Committee composed of twelve members whose duty was “to collect religious and moral statistics.” The monthly meetings of the Association were a combination of a business meeting and a literary entertainment and the work of the Vigilance Committee, whose



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duty was to endeavour "to procure situations for deserving young men who are in search of employment"—this is the germ of the present Employment Department.

In the meantime the Association movement had taken deep root upon the continent of America; Boston followed Montreal in organization and New York had developed a strong work. A federation had been formed for mutual encouragement, the first Convention of the Associations of the United States and Canada having been held in Buffalo in 1854, and a World's Conference in Paris in 1855; these were followed by similar gatherings which gave the Association movement a certain unity of method from the beginning.

This first Association in Toronto lasted but a few years, the Churches meantime having taken up special work for young men with greater vigour, and the Association, lacking that distinctiveness of method now so familiar, disbanded and allowed the strength of its membership to go into purely Church channels. There does not appear to have been any vital connection between this early Association and the one formed in 1864, so that Toronto has lacked that continuity of effort which Montreal, Boston, New York and other North American cities have had.

There is no record giving the officers of the Association for 1853, but those for the year 1855, at which time the Constitution was revised, were as follows: John Holland, President; Matthew Sweetnam, First Vice-President; James Boyd; Alexander Christie, Treasurer; Charles R. Brooke, Corresponding Secretary; W. Russell Ross, Recording Secretary. The Committee was made up of the following gentlemen: Messrs. J. A. Creighton, James Whyte, G. H. Cornish, T. Sellar, Thomas Saunders, John Forsyth, George Carey, R. Reynolds, Wm. Forrest, James Thom, Robert Wilks and A. C. Scarth.



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## CHAPTER III.

### THE TORONTO ASSOCIATION OF 1864

IT was in the year 1861, according to an unpublished letter from F. W. Kingstone, Esq., to Thomas J. Wilkie, dated November, 1910, that a Young Men's Christian Association was formed in connection with St. James's Cathedral. "We had," says Mr. Kingstone, "a room in the basement of the old Sunday School building at the corner of Adelaide and Church Streets, in which room we had meetings and also a reading-room for any young men who chose to attend, and a member of the Association attended there every evening and spoke to any young man who might happen to come in. We had various magazines and papers and a small library belonging to the Sunday School. In addition to that, some of the members did some outside work.

"Mr. Robert Baldwin, with perhaps the assistance of one or more members of the Association, was in the habit of visiting the sailors of the different vessels in Toronto on Sunday mornings, and getting them to attend service on board one of the ships in the harbour, and occasionally he was able to get a clergyman to preach to them. Some of the other members, including myself, used to attend at the hospital and read to the patients there on Sunday afternoons, and I think there were some also who attended at the jail for the same purpose.

"I think it was the following year, though it may have been two years afterwards, that Mr. Baldwin came to me one day and told me that he had been talking with some other young men belonging to other denominations with a view to forming an undenominational Young Men's Christian Association, and he asked me to accompany Mr. James Bain, who then lived at the north-east corner of Wilton Avenue and Sherbourne Street. At that house we met the late librarian, Mr. Bain and Mr. Campbell, now a clergyman, and three or four others whose names I forget, and it was agreed to form an undenominational Young Men's Christian Association."

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[The meeting to which Mr. Kingstone refers was not held where he thinks, but at No. 413 Jarvis Street, at the home of Mr. James Campbell, a well-known bookseller of his day, and Mr. John Campbell, his son, afterward Professor Campbell, of Montreal, was the secretary and Mr. Robert Baldwin was the President.] "A constitution and by-laws were adopted at a later meeting and the first permanent officers of the Association in 1864 were Mr. Robert Baldwin, President; Mr. A. W. Lauder, First Vice-President; Mr. David Fotheringham, Second Vice-President; Mr. John Campbell, Secretary; Mr. A. Savage, Treasurer. The Managing Committee was composed of the following gentlemen: Messrs. Kingstone, Squire, Adams, McCord, Macdonald and Bain.

"About a dozen persons were present at this first meeting in the Campbell home; among them were Mr. Robert Baldwin, Mr. (afterwards Professor) Campbell, Mr. F. W. Kingstone, barrister, Mr. (afterwards Rev.) Geo. H. Squire, Methodist Minister, Mr. (afterwards Rev. Dr.) J. Munro Gibson, of London, England, and Mr. David Fotheringham, afterwards Inspector of Schools for North York. After securing information as to the workings of similar Associations elsewhere, a second meeting was held three weeks later at Mr. Baldwin's residence, 65 Shuter Street. It was not considered advisable, however, to formally organize until a year later, prayer meetings meanwhile being regularly held in the basement of Temperance Hall, on Temperance Street. On the 18th of February, 1864, the organization was formally completed. The first annual business meeting was held on November 1st of that year, when Prof. Daniel Wilson was elected President."

There were two distinct currents of influence running in the Associations of North America during the earlier years of their history, one stimulated by the example of the British Associations, which tended to make the Associations almost exclusively evangelistic and devotional, the other a growing recognition of the proper field of the Association's activity being confined to young men. The impulse to proclaim the power of the Saviour over sin in the lives of men found expression in meetings of a devotional and



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evangelistic type, and a failure to see clearly what the proper field of the Association was led it to undertake forms of work, such as mission labour and general relief, which were outside of its sphere: the affiliations of the Canadian Associations were far closer with those of the United States than with those in Great Britain, and they have conformed in their evolution almost entirely to the American type. When the Toronto Association was re-organized in 1864, the Civil War was raging in the United States and the energies of the Associations there were turned into the work of the United States Christian Commission; this sort of labour of itself had a tendency to call the Associations back to their proper sphere, for the soldiers were nearly all young men. When the war closed the Associations faced their work with but a partial idea of how it was to be done. Some strong leaders like D. L. Moody felt that evangelism was the answer, others like William E. Dodge and Cephas Brainerd and Robert R. McBurney of New York saw still wider fields of effort opening before the Associations of North America. Beginning with the International Convention of 1866, held in Albany, New York, the North American Associations have gradually, but surely, moved towards the ideal of the salvation of the whole man, body, mind and spirit. The growth of the Association began to be more intensive, it dropped certain forms of effort because of a clearer vision of its own legitimate field, and as it began to confine its labours to young men exclusively, at



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once the most tempted and least cared for class in the community, it discovered the almost infinite range that it had for its work within this narrower circle. It became a specialist in the problems of manhood; it showed the flexibility of an abounding life; it experimented in religious, social, physical and educational work for young men; it looked upon the world of young men as its parish. The movement was held in unity by means of Conventions and Conferences and by Committees appointed by them. There were blunders, but they were those of an onward marching army. Without the benefit, but also without the immense handicap, of tradition the Associations pushed on, enlarging, multiplying and growing stronger.

#### EXTRACTS FROM OLD REPORTS

The following extracts from the Annual Reports of that period will indicate the character and scope of the Association's activities. The report of 1867 shows "that new rooms were secured at 34 King Street East. Here the work continued to grow. The membership numbered 348, as against 100 the previous year. Three public meetings were held to give more publicity to the work, fifteen business meetings, thirty-six devotional meetings, at which short papers were read and discussed by the members. A Bible Class was organized, taught by R. D. Foreman and Dr. Carlyle, which met each Sabbath afternoon. The Bethel services, Bible and Tract distribution, Jail, Hospital and Cottage meetings all increased in interest. A course of four paid lectures netted the Association \$50.00. Three hundred and eighty volumes were added to the library. The reading room was more patronized and \$931.00 expended in the work. The officers were: Daniel Wilson, LL.B., President; B. Homer Dixon, K.N.L., Vice-President; Robt. Baldwin, James Carlyle, M.D., George Hague, John Macdonald, Robert Walker, J. C. Hamilton, Corresponding Secretary; Walter B. Copp, Recording Secretary; John K. Macdonald, Treasurer; and F. W. Kingstone, M.A., Librarian. The Directors were: William Anderson, John Laird, Wm. Grainger, Richard Faircloth, W. J. Morphy, George Chaffy, Jr., W. J. Robertson and E. J. Joselin."



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Extracts from the Report for 1868 show: "A slight decrease in membership, which now numbers three hundred and two; forty-eight meetings were held in the rooms, at which thirty-two Essays were read and discussed. Seven public lectures were delivered on the following subjects:—'Some of the Religious Teachings of Science,' by Dr. Wilson; 'Money,' by George Hague; 'Fiction,' by Rev. C. H. Bridgeman; 'Egypt and Monuments,' by Dr. Wilson; 'The Elasticity of Romanism,' by S. H. Blake; 'Cowper, the Poet,' by Dr. Wilson; 'Preachers and Preaching,' by R. T. Thomas. Correspondence was had with the following Associations:—Kingston, Collingwood, Sarnia, Port Hope, Perth, Hamilton, Port Rowan, Oshawa, Windsor, Woodstock, Montreal, New York, Detroit and London, the parent Society. Several towns desirous of organizing Associations applied to the Toronto Association for information, which was gladly given. \$1,212 was expended in the work this year. On March 4th, 1868, the Association was incorporated."

#### FROM THE REPORT FOR 1869:

"The relief of the poor during the winter of 1868-69 and the energetic and successful work of the Employment Committee during the summer are worthy of special notice.

"We find at this period a movement on foot to secure a Secretary whose duty it would be to attend to the rooms and superintend the work more closely, as from the experience of other Associations having such an officer, great good seems to be accomplished. A resolution was moved that a suitable person be engaged to fill the office of Secretary at a salary of from \$200 to \$300 per annum 'as soon as such a person can be found.'

"The City Missionary's work was very encouraging. Besides visiting from door to door, he had visited the jail and hospital and the emigrants on their arrival at Toronto during the season and helped them in various ways, especially in getting small houses and rooms for those who remained in the City.

"Seven cottage and prayer meetings were sustained over the Don and at Britain Street, Berkeley Street Fire Hall, Duchess Street, McMahon Street, Centre Street and

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Sumach Street. The Editor of the Toronto 'Globe' very kindly sent a reporter with the City Missionary and the article which appeared resulted in increased donations being available for the building. The Employment Committee was active; two hundred and fifty-five applications were received, for thirty-three of whom employment was found by the Committee.

"Through the increased liberality of friends all debts were met. During this year an agitation was started for a building, \$7,000 being subscribed as a start.

"About five hundred and sixty trains were visited by the members and twenty-five thousand tracts were given to the passengers. The sailors and lumbermen were regularly visited, some four hundred and ten vessels and one hundred and seventy shanties receiving calls from the members. Welsh and French, as well as English, literature was given away. Tracts were distributed at Queen's Park, Horticultural Gardens, Necropolis, etc. The Camp of Red River Volunteers at Crystal Palace afforded an opportunity for work by the members; the Rev. Canon Baldwin preached to the volunteers

and prayer meetings were conducted by members of the Association. A new feature of the work was the holding of meetings in boarding-houses. Often the members would call at a house where the young men were engaged in playing cards, and they would in a very informal way begin to sing and soon the cards were abandoned and the attention of the young men attracted to the old, old story that was being told."



WEST END BUILDING



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#### FROM THE REPORT FOR 1870:

"The membership stood at four hundred and eight. The Sabbath evening meeting in the Agricultural Hall was carried on for four months with encouraging results. A number of low dance houses were established in the city and the young men, after much prayer, stood in couples at the entrance to those places with the result that all were given up during the winter for lack of patronage.

"The Association commenced work among the volunteers at Niagara Camp during the annual training, after receiving permission from Major General Ross and Lieutenant-Colonel Durie. A large marquee tent was erected and writing materials furnished and other privileges to the men which were greatly appreciated."

#### FROM THE REPORT FOR 1871:

"This year showed increased activity in every branch of the work. Various new schemes were inaugurated. A new system was adopted for the registration of members, which now numbered 401. The reading-room was crowded daily. The camp work at Niagara increased in interest.

"One hundred and fifty boarding houses were visited during the year and about 1,500 young men were thus reached. To each of these a little booklet was handed. Family worship at 9.30 every evening was inaugurated by the reception committee, and brought home to many a young man early recollections of mother and father in the home gathering. One hundred and thirty-four obtained employment through the employment agency; 487 had applied, 206 from Great Britain and Ireland; 250 from various parts of Canada, 19 from the United States, 6 from ships and regiments in Her Majesty's service, and from Australia, West Indies and India, 1 each. The Building Fund had increased to \$28,076, so that plans were prepared by Smith & Tanner and contracts let amounting to \$30,000."

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## FROM THE REPORT FOR 1872:

"1872 was memorable in that the new building was entered and an assistant Secretary was secured in the person of W. T. Crombie. The membership had increased to 521; 80,725 tracts and 10,650 hand-bills were distributed, making known the work of the Association. The Hospital and Jail work was actively engaged in, and Mr. Hague's Bible Class was becoming more and more helpful to the Association; 757 applied for employment and of this number 250 obtained positions. \$675.40 was netted from the paying lecture course inaugurated. The course consisted of lectures by A. T. Pierson, Detroit, 'Life Power'; Rev. T. DeWitt Talmage, 'Grumbler & Co.'; Rev. Dr. Punshon, 'Wilberforce'; Rev. Dr. Tiffany, 'The New Civilization,' and Dr. George McDonald, 'Robert Burns.' The income from the new building was \$655; the annual budget had now increased to \$4,154.97. Mention should be here made of the splendid work done by the ladies of the city, who set out to raise \$3,000 for furnishing the new building and handed over to the Association \$6,915.50, thus doubling what they set out to get."

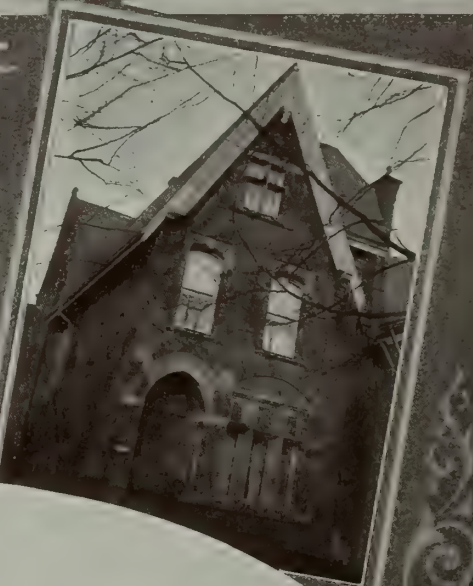
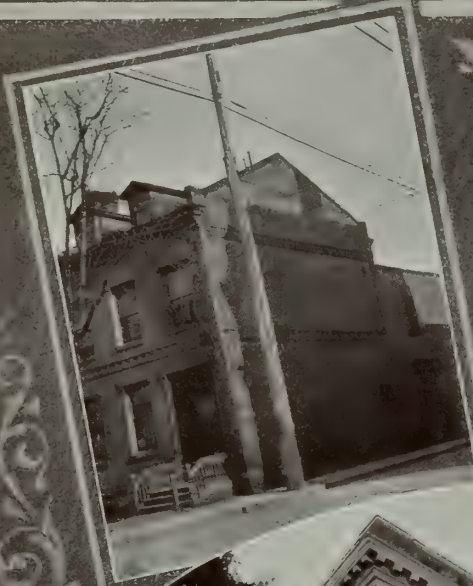
These reports, while showing a discursiveness of activity, a scattering of energies over a wide field of endeavour, have in them the germ of all that has followed since. The men who led the work were strong in their Christian purpose, full of zeal in evangelism, loyal to the Bible and possessed of a great faith in the transforming power of the Christian message. They were not content with working in rooms and buildings, but pushed their activities into the homes and boarding houses of young men. The Toronto Association has the honour of inaugurating work among the volunteers at the Niagara Camp, the first work of its kind and a work that has since been conducted by the Provincial Committee, and now by the Canadian National Council. Lecture courses were popular and profitable, both from the standpoint of their cultural and financial value; the Physical work was gradually given a place, though it was by no means prominent; educational classes are not mentioned, but the library has a place. The co-operation of women was secured and their efforts were signally blessed.



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## OUTSTANDING ASSOCIATION DATES

- 1844—First Young Men's Christian Association started in London, England, by Sir George Williams.
- 1851—First Young Men's Christian Association started in North America in Montreal.
- 1853—An Association organized by Mr. John Holland in Toronto; only lasted three or four years.
- 1854—First International Convention held in America at Buffalo; 28 delegates attended, representing sixteen Associations.
- 1856—First International Convention held in Canada at Montreal; 98 delegates, representing 35 Associations, St. John, N.B., Montreal, Kingston and Hamilton being Canadian cities represented.
- 1864—Present Toronto Association organized in Temperance Hall, Temperance Street.
- 1865—Association moved to rented rooms at 151 Yonge Street.
- 1867—Twelfth Annual International Convention held at Montreal; 597 delegates, representing 106 Associations.
- 1868—Association met at 34 King Street East.
- 1868—Association incorporated.
- 1869—First General Secretary appointed: Thomas J. Wilkie.
- 1871—Militia Camp Association work started at Niagara.
- 1872—Shaftesbury Hall built.
- 1872—First Assistant Secretary appointed: W. P. Crombie.
- 1882—West End Branch formed.
- 1887—Young Men's Christian Association Building erected, Yonge and McGill Streets.
- 1910—Toronto Young Men's Christian Associations' Building Campaign of \$653,066.88 successfully conducted.
- 1910—International Convention held in Toronto; 525 Associations represented by 1,145 delegates.
- 1912—Broadview Branch Young Men's Christian Association new Building opened.
- 1912—Canadian National Council organized.
- 1912—New West End Association Building opened.
- 1913—New Central Branch Building opened.



65 Shuter Street, 1864

New Central Building, College Street

443 Jarvis Street, 1864

The Old Building, 415 Yonge Street, 1889-1913

Shaftesbury Hall, 1872-89



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## CHAPTER IV.

### THE BUILDINGS OF THE VARIOUS PERIODS

THE first meeting place of the Toronto Association was in the basement of Temperance Hall, on Temperance Street, and the rooms were kept in order by the voluntary labor of such men as Mr. J. K. Macdonald, Mr. E. J. Joslin, Mr. George Pim and Mr. J. D. Nasmith, who learned the truth of George Herbert's dictum:

"Who sweeps a room as for Thy laws,  
Makes that and th' action fine!"

In 1865 these "damp and cramped quarters" were given up and a finer place secured at 151 Yonge Street. If the first place was too low, being one flight down, the second was too high, being two flights up. The furnishings were meagre, but the vitality of the Association was sufficient to overcome even such a handicap. In the year 1866, during the Fenian Raid, the rooms were thrown open to the soldiers who gathered in Toronto in large numbers, and they were furnished with writing materials and made to feel at home. Public interest was sufficiently aroused to enable the Association to provide better furniture and to make the rooms more comfortable. Another temporary headquarters was occupied by the Association in 1868 at 34 King Street East, in what was then known as the Leslie Building, on the site now occupied by the building of Rice, Lewis & Company; there the work was changed and enlarged and so compelled the erection of the first Association building for the work in Toronto. To us the erection of an Association building seems a simple thing and its distinctive style and arrangement of rooms a matter of course, but it would be possible to read the history of the work itself in the type of buildings which have housed it.

In the early days the Toronto Association occupied rooms, having no permanent abiding place. Though it did not dwell in tents, as the ancient Israelites, it had no home

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and no guarantee of enduring. In this respect it was like the other associations. The work itself was experimental. The churches wondered if the Association would really become a new sect, overlooking the fact that the dominance of the lay element was in itself the greatest possible safeguard against the danger. The business community was not, as a whole, conscious of the presence of a new force. But soon after the organization of the Association in Toronto, the erection of specially designed buildings for the use of the Young Men's Christian Associations began. These at first varied according to the conceptions which the different societies erecting them had of their work. Farwell Hall, erected in Chicago in 1866, showed the influence of D. L. Moody, with whom large evangelistic meetings for reaching the masses was the ideal for the Association to strive after, while in New York a building was designed and constructed for the specialized work among young men, for which the Association in New York, under McBurney's leadership as General Secretary, consistently stood. Toronto was influenced at first more by the Chicago and British conceptions, and its first building was Shaftesbury Hall.

In nearly all of the Association buildings of those days the large Assembly Hall was the centre, around which the other activities of the Association were grouped. Lectures delivered by prominent men were generally a prominent feature of the work, and in Toronto lecture courses had a large place.

The building enterprise, which resulted in the erection of Shaftesbury Hall, was begun in 1870, when \$7,000 was pledged at a meeting held in the Gould Street Presbyterian Church. In December, 1871, the lot on the corner of Queen and James Streets was purchased for the sum of \$8,200, and the building, which cost about \$30,000, was erected and dedicated. It was the centre of the Association's activities for a period of fifteen years.

In the meantime Toronto continued to grow, until larger quarters became imperative. A new site was purchased at the corner of Yonge and McGill Streets for \$12,000 and on



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November 3rd, 1887, the new building was dedicated. The Honorable S. H. Blake presided, Mr. Stapleton Caldecott was the President of the Association, and Mr. John Macdonald made an address in which he traced the history of the Association. The Yonge Street building, while still having a large hall, was constructed with the social idea far more prominent. In accordance with the ideas of the time, revenue was provided for by putting the Association rooms upstairs and locating stores on the ground floor. The gymnasium and baths, the social rooms and educational features now became more fully recognized, and provision was made for all of them in the new and larger home.

For many years the Yonge Street Building was crowded with a membership of young men and boys, additional property was purchased and a separate building for Boys' work organized in it. The City grew with great rapidity, and the increasing number of young men and boys in population was met by a growing popularity in the community of the Association work itself.

Great building movements were developed in various cities and in the early nineties the need of securing larger quarters for this work became clearly apparent to the Board of Directors. The demands of other worthy objects, and the financial stringency of 1907, prevented the launching of a new building enterprise until the year 1909, when, in co-operation with the West End and University Associations, an Executive Committee was formed for the purpose of undertaking this important public service. After months of preparation the Building Campaign was launched at a banquet held on April 28th, 1910, the object being to raise \$600,000 for the purpose of erecting four Association buildings in Toronto, one for the Central, West End, Broadview and University. The Campaign ended on May 9th, 1910, and it resulted in a total subscription of \$807,023.06, \$153,957.18 of this amount being for the Young Women's Christian Association and \$653,066.88 for the Young Men's Christian Association. The determination to help the women was reached owing to the great momentum that the Campaign had attained.

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The Campaign set a pace, not only for Canada, but for all the cities of corresponding size to Toronto in the World, for up to that time no such amount of money had ever been secured in the same time for such an object.

Those who were participants in that Campaign will never forget those strenuous days; men worked for the Association as they never worked for business, day and night. Gifts surprisingly generous came in such volume as to rebuke the faith of the most confident. It did not seem so much like a duty as it did like a pleasure, for men had caught the vision of a purer, cleaner boyhood and manhood for Toronto, and saw that the Association was an agency to help in producing it. The Governor-General, Earl Grey, spoke at one of the luncheons and said: "I know of no undertaking which is fulfilling to greater satisfaction one of the most pressing needs of our great cities." A service of thanksgiving was held in Association Hall on the Monday following the close of the effort to record the Association's devout thanksgiving to God for His wonderful blessing upon the undertaking.

The new building for the Central Branch is really the crowning work of the Association, so far as a building can give visible expression to great spiritual purposes. It is one of the largest on the Continent and in all respects embodies the latest ideas in practical Association architecture. It has a frontage of 205 feet on College Street and runs through to Grenville Street with a frontage of 154 feet. It contains  $3\frac{1}{3}$  acres of floor space, and has a separate entrance for men and one for boys, with social rooms and gymnasiums for each entirely separate from the other. There are class rooms, swimming, shower and Turkish baths, and men's dormitories, and a complete heating and lighting plant.



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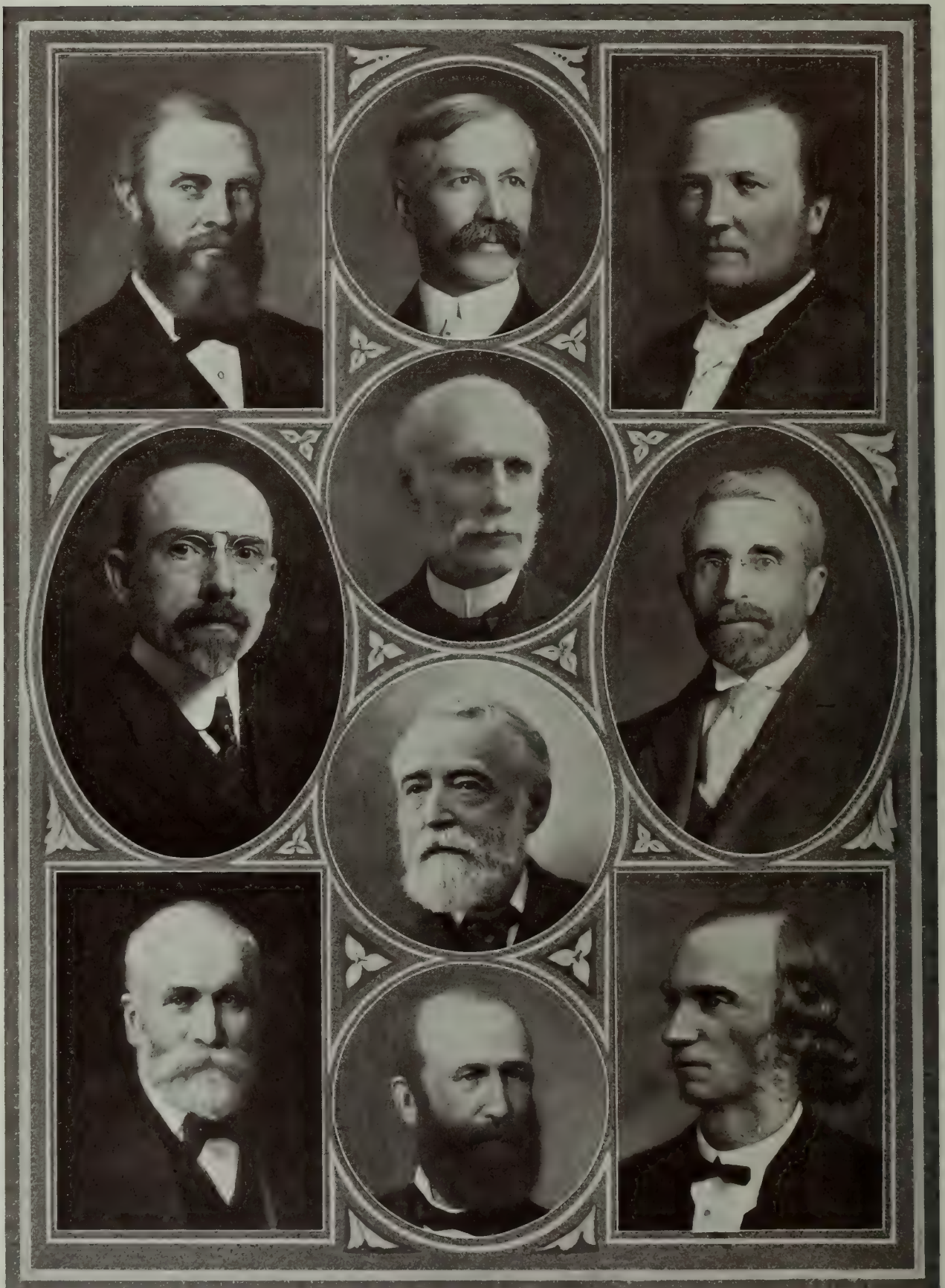
## CHAPTER V.

### THE LAY ELEMENT AND ITS SIGNIFICANCE

THE Association movement has from the very beginning been a layman's organization. Here and there, to be sure, ministers of the gospel have been prominent and active workers, and always the co-operation of pastors has been one of the great elements of its strength. It has, nevertheless, been dependent upon the lay rather than the clerical section of the Church for its methods and its men. It has never been ecclesiastical, while it has always kept close to the life of the Christian Church, and has fully recognized, in its conventions as well as in its teaching and methods of work, its responsibility to the Church as the ordained means constituted by Christ Himself for the redemption of the world.

The Toronto Association has been rich in the laymen who have been leaders in its activities. At first there was no one but volunteers. It was they who had to plan as well as to execute. They came from every Christian communion. As in the Old Land, many came from the Anglican Church and the connection of the Association with St. James's Cathedral was particularly close. It is undoubtedly true that our Anglican brethren were pioneers in the clear discovery of their social obligations to the community as a whole. Other denominations have at various times laid emphasis upon other things, but gradually all have come to see that their labours must be comprehensive and extensive if the Church is to fulfil its divine mission. The strong laymen who brought about the revival of work for young men by a union organization in 1864 in Toronto had caught the vision of this white and ready harvest field, and they went forth into it, under the compulsion of love, to reap it. Two things marked what they did—intense devotion and self-sacrifice and a spirit of brotherly unity between Christians of all names. Even in the early sixties this was by no means common; at least, there were but few visible expressions of it. The Bible Societies were almost alone as undenomina-

THE  
PRESI-  
DENTS



ROBT. BALDWIN  
E. R. WOOD  
ROBT. KILGOUR

G. TOWER FERGUSON  
HON. JUSTICE J. J. MACLAREN  
STAPLETON CALDECOTT  
HON. JOHN MACDONALD

HON. S. H. BLAKE  
WM. GARSIDE  
SIR DANIEL WILSON



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tional organizations, the Missionary Societies were connected with the various denominations; such mission work as was done in the cities, and there was but little, was conducted by the Churches acting separately. In all North America there was little union effort. Charles G. Finney was distinctively a Calvinistic evangelist and ministered to those Churches holding Calvinistic doctrine; the same had been true of Edwards. The great modern union evangelistic meetings were unknown. The Association was a pioneer in the direction of union effort amongst Christians of all the Churches. This was true generally, and was true also in Toronto. In the United States the strength of all the Associations of the north was turned into the United States Christian Commission, which successfully conducted that magnificent piece of Christian service to the soldiers of the Union which had in it the germ of all such modern movements, as the Red Cross and the work of the Young Men's Christian Associations in the armies and navies of the world.

In another part of this sketch will be found letters of reminiscence from some of the men who have at various times been the lay leaders in all of the growth of the Toronto Association.\* They have really given it standing and made its work possible; serving on Boards of Directors and Committees of various kinds, they have contributed not only their means but themselves. The Association has had increasing confidence in the work which they have directed; they have laboured and prayed, sacrificed and toiled for the sake of the young men. In the swing of the pendulum they have seen great success and have been pushed close to complete failure and collapse. The work has sometimes expanded more rapidly than the means to support it have increased, but through dark and bright days alike these business and professional men have kept at their task. The responsible men in the Toronto work have always been these laymen, and the test of the Association's success as a unifying force among Christian young men is always to be found in the quality, number and representative character of its lay workers. The employment of men to give their entire time was never intended to reduce, but rather to increase, the volume of distinctively lay effort, and the fact that at the present time there

\* See pages 43-51.



A. J. HARDY  
J. J. GARTSHORE  
THOS. ALLEN

CHAS. T. STARK  
L. A. WINTER

HARRY RYRIE, 1st Vice-Pres.  
A. T. REID  
A. F. WEBSTER, Treasurer

E. R. WOOL

# THE BOARD OF





DIRECTORS

President  
G. H. WOOD, 2nd Vice-Pres.  
JOHN FIRSTBROOK  
W. A. KEMP

WM. CRAIG  
T. BRADSHAW

JOHN A. TORY  
WM. GARSIDE  
JOHN TURNBULL

---

are 732 men serving on the various Association Boards and Committees in Toronto would indicate that this ideal is actually attained.

As an illustration of the type of those who have furnished this essential lay leadership to the work of the Toronto Association, we have but to peruse the list of Presidents who have served the Association since 1864, the date of its reorganization.

The first was Robert Baldwin. He was a man of great zeal and of a very practical turn of mind. He was the leader in the very beginning, and possessing a character which was compelling in its genuineness, was able to secure the co-operation of others of a similar spirit. There are some now living who recall his zeal and consecration, and who regard him as the one chiefly responsible for initiating the work.

The second President was Sir Daniel Wilson, President of the University of Toronto, who brought to the office not only scholarly attainments, but also a recognized leadership of the Christian forces of the community.

John Macdonald, the third incumbent of the office, was a merchant of sterling worth and high commercial standing, a man of generosity and unquestioned probity, who proved a true and constant friend to the Association movement.

The Honorable S. H. Blake succeeded Mr. Macdonald as President in 1877, and was elected President the second time in 1894, serving nine years the first time and five years the second time, fourteen years in all, a longer period than any other President. Mr. Blake, who is still living, and retains his intellectual vigour to a remarkable degree, is recognized as one of the ablest lawyers in the Dominion and was for some time a judge. A man of intense convictions, with a sincere and deep love for Christ and His work, charitable to an unusual degree, possessed of rare gifts in public speech, capable of arousing an enthusiastic following, sagacious and painstaking in all matters of detail connected with the administration of his office, punctiliously faithful in carrying out his own and the Association's obligations, he gave the Toronto Association a leadership throughout Canada and North America such as it had not had up to the time of his election. He was



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honoured by being made the President of the International Convention, which met in San Francisco in 1887, and was for many years an active member of the International Committee. He also served as Trustee for many years, and his service was very valuable to the cause.

Mr. Stapleton Caldecott became the President of the Association in 1886 and served until 1889. During the first Presidency of Mr. Blake, Mr. Caldecott had acted as Vice-President, and had had to do with shaping the policy of the Association and attending to many of the details of the presidential office. He was an Englishman, a merchant of high standing who had been active in the Montreal Association before moving to Toronto, and was a man of genial, vigorous life, thoroughly devoted to young men and their uplifting.

Mr. Robert Kilgour, who had been the Treasurer of the Association, was made President in 1889 and again ten years later. His standing as a business man, his intimate knowledge of the business and religious conditions of the City, his earnest sympathy with aggressive Christian work of all kinds, his generosity, unselfishness and winsome personality constituted an enormous asset for the Association during the period of his Presidency, and afterwards as a Director, and especially as Chairman of the Finance Committee.

The Honorable Justice Maclaren, who succeeded Mr. Kilgour, became President in 1892, having been a member of the Board since 1884. As a member of the Montreal Board he had acquired an intimate knowledge of Association work. Justice Maclaren's deep love for Christian work, fondness for young men, largeness of sympathy and high standing as a representative Christian layman qualified him for efficient service.

Mr. G. Tower Fergusson came to the Presidency after a long term of activity in the work of the Association as a Committee man, and brought to it a breadth of experience and intimate knowledge of its needs such as few have had. His helpful relation to the Association continues, he being now the President of the Board of Trustees.

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Mr. William Garside, who has been a Director and active worker for many years, was President during a period at once trying and encouraging—trying because of the resignation of Mr. F. M. Pratt as General Secretary and the consequent large increase in the duties devolving upon the President which required the utmost tact and patience in handling, and encouraging because during his Presidency the plan for the organization of the Building Campaign was completed. It was during Mr. Garside's administration that a standard of giving was attained both with respect to local and foreign work which had not been reached before in the Toronto Association.

Mr. E. R. Wood, who as Chairman of the Citizens' Committee in connection with the Building Campaign of 1910 became more prominent as an Association leader, was elected to the Presidency in October of the same year. His intimate relation to the financial interests of the City, his standing as a man of rare business gifts, his capacity for leadership in generosity and service, and his unbounded confidence in the methods of the Association, combined with a readiness to make all necessary sacrifice, have laid the Association under a deep and lasting obligation to him. Mr. Wood was President of the Toronto International Convention in 1910, and is a member of the International Committee and of the Advisory Board of the Indian National Council.

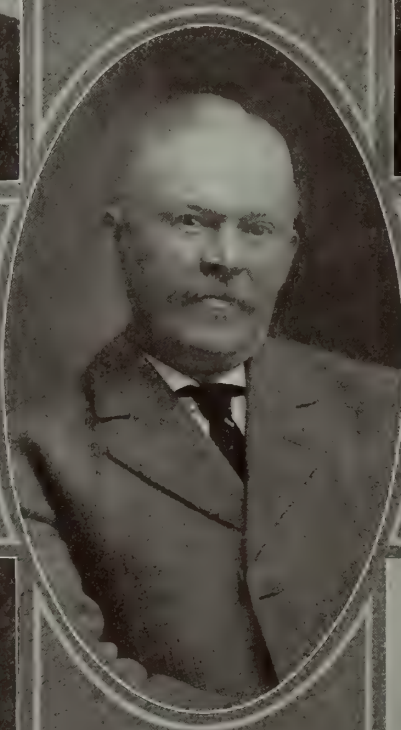
These men should be regarded as typical of the larger number of Directors with whom they have shared the responsibility for the guidance of the Association from the beginning, and behind the Directors a steadily increasing number of younger men who have constituted the various active committees charged with the responsibility of outlining and carrying on the details of the Association enterprise. We are accustomed to measure the strength of an organization by the number of members that are enrolled, but this may be a very superficial view to take. The strength of the Toronto Association consists, as it always has, in the body of volunteer workers who have caught the spirit of the Master and who desire to "lead the young men to become His disciples in their doctrine and in their life."



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## THE GENERAL SECRETARIES

1st Employed Officer.....	JOHN BEATTIE (As City Missionary).....	Feb. 1866—Dec. 1869	
1st General Secretary....	THOMAS J. WILKIE.....	Nov. 1869—	1880
2nd General Secretary...	ALFRED SANDHAM.....	1880—	1885
3rd General Secretary....	WILLIAM McCULLOCH.....	1885—	1894
4th General Secretary....	FRANK M. PRATT.....	1894—	1908
5th General Secretary....	GEORGE A. Warburton .....	1909—	....



WM. McCULLOCH  
T. J. WILKIE

G. A. Warburton

F. M. PRATT  
ALFRED SANDHAM

THE  
GENERAL  
SECRETARIES



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## CHAPTER VI.

### THE GENERAL SECRETARIES

WHILE Robert Beattie was employed by the Association as City Missionary from February, 1866, to December, 1869, it was not until October 22nd of the latter year that the following resolution was adopted by the Association, and the office of General Secretary became a permanent part of the Association's plan of work.

“Moved by R. Baldwin, seconded by J. C. Small, that Thomas J. Wilkie be appointed the Secretary of the Association at a salary of \$600 per annum, payable monthly, the engagement to be terminated at any time on three months' notice from either party, and that Wm. Anderson, George Hague, Wm. Carlyle, and F. W. Kingstone be a Committee to draft rules for his guidance.” The choice of the Committee fell upon Thomas J. Wilkie, whose duties were defined as follows:—

First: He shall fulfil the duties of Corresponding and Recording Secretary, as set forth in the By-laws, Sections 2 and 3.

Second: He shall attend at the rooms from nine to ten and from two to three to receive visitors and meet strangers and members, and as far as possible introduce them to each other and engage them in the work of the Association.

Third: He shall collect the annual fee from the members, and pay over the same to the Treasurer.

Fourth: He shall assist the Lecture Committee in providing suitable subjects for the Tuesday evening meetings, and shall also see that some proper person presides at the Saturday evening meetings.

Fifth: He shall also act as Librarian and direct the Assistant Librarian in the proper care of the Library and Reading Room.

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Sixth: He shall, under the direction of the Financial Committee, collect subscriptions for the Association in the City, he shall be ex-officio a member of all Committees, and see that they are properly convened, and shall to the utmost of his ability increase the usefulness and prosperity of the Association.

The first Secretary to give his whole time to the work was Thomas J. Wilkie, who served from 1869 to 1880. Mr. Wilkie's name is still one to conjure with among Canadian Association members and friends. He was indeed much more than a Secretary of a city Association. His interests covered the entire country and all classes of men, and to him is due the credit for the inception of the Provincial Supervisory Committee in 1869, also the military camp work, which has now been adopted by Great Britain, the United States and other countries. Hundreds of men, now in full maturity, have reason to be grateful for coming in contact with Mr. Wilkie, and for the influence of that contact on their lives. No officer ever served the Association movement with greater devotion or zeal than he. He combined the faith and zeal of an evangelist with the sagacity of a business man. His unbounded kindness and deep love for young men, his confidence in the power of Christ to save and help them, his persuasive winsome appeals, rising as they did out of the depths of a rich emotional nature, his intimate knowledge of the Bible, in whose glorious truths he had the fullest faith, these things were among the qualities which made him much beloved, and which gave him a leadership not only in Toronto and Canada, but in the United States as well. In fact the influence of the Canadian Associations has always been marked upon the North American work, especially in those departments that are more distinctively religious, such as Personal Evangelism, Bible Study and Foreign Missions. It was in his power of personal persuasion that Mr. Wilkie's influence was most marked, both locally and generally, and it was here that he stamped his personality upon other men in an ineffaceable manner. This has always been the sign mark of the great leaders in the Association Secretaryship, McBurney, Sinclair, See, Stockwell, Budge and Wilkie have all emphasized this aspect of Christian service. It has never been the public work that has given leadership, but



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always those less spectacular gifts, which enabled those who exercised them to use personal friendship as the means of promoting the spread of Christ's kingdom; in this they have been true to the primary object and methods of the Association. It came into being to help young men to live and labour for Christ "in the sphere of their daily calling," and while there have been occasional meteoric displays by men who courted more public spheres, the Association has made permanent progress by the quieter and more effective means. Mr. Wilkie is still engaged in the work of the Association, being Advisory Secretary of the County Work Department of the California Committee. He is a frequent and welcome visitor to Toronto.

Mr. Alfred Sandham succeeded Mr. Wilkie in 1880, and served for five years, rendering earnest, devoted service. His influence, too, reached far beyond the bounds of his local work, and he too left his impress on the Association work throughout Ontario and Quebec. He was not in favour of the enlarging programme of Association activities and his influence, while strongly helpful in the distinctively religious work, was somewhat reactionary in respect to the other features.

On the list of General Secretaries next comes Mr. William McCulloch. Nine years of labour are to his credit, and with him, as with his predecessors, there are still hundreds of men who remember him gratefully and kindly for the inspiration of his life and the quality of his character. Mr. McCulloch was often put to the test during eclipse periods of the Association, but emerged from them with enlarged influence and ripened judgment. He is now a Presbyterian minister and lives near Johannesburg in South Africa.

Mr. Frank M. Pratt was called to succeed Mr. McCulloch in 1894, after having served a secretarial apprenticeship in Montreal, Kingston and Hamilton Associations. He came to the Toronto Central with all the enthusiasm of young manhood and gave unstintedly of himself for nearly fifteen years. He, too, had to face dark Association days, and it is to his long and faithful preparatory work that not a little of the success of the

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latest building campaign is due. He in a large measure made the latter possible. Mr. Pratt's administration put the Association upon a sound financial footing and increased the confidence of business men in the undertaking. He was deservedly held in the highest esteem by the entire community. He is now engaged in business in Vancouver.

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## OUR SUPREME TEST

"The Young Men's Christian Association has not yet met its supreme test, the Christian Church has not yet met its supreme test. The serious test is not our ability to agree or disagree upon a form of statement, our serious test is whether we can make vital and commanding, in America and the world, the religion of our Lord Jesus Christ. The world has grown small in recent years; but just because the world has grown small, the supremacy of the Christian religion in the world has become imperative, as it never was imperative when the world was separated."

BISHOP WILLIAM F. McDOWELL,  
At Cincinnati International Convention, 1913.



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## CHAPTER VII.

### REMINISCENCES

FROM H. B. GORDON, O.A.A., F.R.A.I.C., TORONTO

Replying to the request for some reminiscences of the old Toronto Y.M.C.A., forty years ago, when I joined the Association, the Secretary was Mr. T. J. Wilkie, and its building was on the north-east corner of Queen and James Streets. The Y.M.C.A. in those days was known as an aggressive evangelistic agency. I remember a lady telling me her young brother was afraid to join the Association for fear he would be spoken to personally about his soul. But he did join and is now a leading Christian business man in this city.

There were three meetings that bulked largely in the Association life, viz. the evangelistic meeting for men on Saturday night, the evangelistic Bible Class on Sunday afternoon, and the mixed evangelistic meeting on Sunday night after church hours. We used to expect conversions at every meeting, and if a week passed without showing definite spiritual results we were sent in contrition to our knees. Prayer occupied a very large place in the life of the workers. Each meeting was preceded by much prayer. Special evenings were set apart for united prayer, and on some occasions prayer meetings continued all night.

Bible study also had a prominent place: under such leaders as Colonel Burton, S. R. Briggs and Arthur Burson the members were stimulated to personal Bible study. As a result many of the members became qualified as personal workers competent to direct men to Christ. We always had an after meeting on Saturday and Sunday evenings, and we usually had numerous enquiries. I remember on one occasion a minister had slipped in and taken a back seat and bowed his head in prayer. Not being recognized, he was spoken to in turn by three workers, until he lifted his head and thanked God that there were faithful workers after the souls of men.

I remember one Saturday night a man came in who was so intoxicated he could hardly sit up straight. Before he left the Association that night he was sober and professed conversion.

Under the secretaryship of Mr. Alfred Sandham, who followed Mr. Wilkie, the strong point of the Association was Bible study. Mr. Sandham was a remarkable student of the "Word," and had a great fund of illustration. His example and enthusiasm led many of the members to a fuller and more devotional use of the Bible. I remember the finely illustrated text he prepared and placed over the water filter near the entrance: "He that drinketh of this water shall thirst again, but he that drinketh of the 'Water' that I shall give him, shall never thirst."

Mr. A. Saunders was the assistant secretary at that time and he was a great personal worker. He went to China under the China Inland Mission and has greatly been used there.

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Another thing that I recall with pleasure was the large amount of co-operation given by the strong evangelical ministers of the different denominations, who so frequently addressed our meetings and helped in the religious work of the Association. Among others I recall the names of Reverends Dr. Potts, Dr. Parsons and Dr. Rainsford. The Association each year conducted special evangelistic services for young men, covering two or three weeks. Besides this the Association took a very large share in the general evangelistic services held from time to time in the city, notably the ones held in the Granite Rink on Church Street.

In conclusion I would testify that the Association in those days stood loyally for the "Book" in its entirety and for the Gospel of the Grace of God. The distinctly religious work was in the forefront and its other agencies were subordinate to this end.

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#### FROM G. TOWER FERGUSON, TORONTO

The Toronto Young Men's Christian Association took a large forward step when it first occupied Shaftesbury Hall on the corner of Queen and James Streets, and began to develop the work among the young men of the city on a much wider and more comprehensive scale than had been attempted before that time.

An incentive to that enlargement was the very life and example of the great English statesman for whom the new building was named. The large part which the Earl of Shaftesbury played in the old land in everything looking to the betterment of his fellows, as well as the out-and-out evangelical character of his religious life, could be regarded as an inspiration to just such activities as the Association stood for.

The enthusiasm and energy of Thomas J. Wilkie as General Secretary were reflected in the active membership, and he always rallied around him a band of faithful young men.

Only some phases of effort need be mentioned. The visiting of the vessels in our harbour on Sunday mornings was for years carried on. The leader in this branch was Robert Baldwin, a past president and a man of singular devotion. He had been a sailor himself in his younger days. Equipped with a carefully selected bundle of Tracts and his Bible, the young member would follow along the Bay front and wherever a schooner was tied to a dock he would board it.

Sometimes he was able to do no more than leave a few tracts, but often he could gather a handful of "sailor boys" and conduct a short service. More than one member of the Young Men's Christian Association was in this way enabled to bear testimony for his Master, and to attempt some evangelistic work in His name.



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The two outstanding religious meetings were those held on Saturday nights and on week-days at noon. For years these were continued, and very rich indeed was the blessing which followed them. The Committee for the Saturday night meetings made a practice of inviting passers-by, and thus by means of cards of invitation were able to bring in to our meetings many careless and thoughtless young men. During the Shaftesbury Hall days Mr. Alfred Sandham also served as Secretary. A scholarly man, an earnest Bible student, he did much to encourage Bible study as well as direct along the lines of evangelistic effort. The educative side of Association activities was largely advanced through courses of lectures of a public character. Many of America's most prominent men were thus heard by Toronto people.

The physical was only indifferently developed, but chiefly through lack of the proper equipment.

The Association has had its victories to record, but it has likewise had its times of defeat. Its time of financial straits came. This was brought about by various causes, which need not here be referred to. At one time, and some years after we had taken possession of Association Hall, it looked as if the Association would be altogether lost to the city of Toronto through its financial embarrassments.

The vitality of the work, and the confidence of our citizens in it, was never better exemplified than by the loyal way in which they came to our relief in the campaign then launched to free the Association from its financial difficulties.

Mr. Frank M. Pratt was called to the Secretarial office at that time, and no man has ever served the Association with more fidelity and in the face of greater difficulties.

There were other men who deserve honorable mention in this connection, but none more than the Hon. S. H. Blake. He had retired from the work, but at the urgent solicitation of the Board of Directors, again assumed the office of President. By his ability and leadership the Association again found itself on solid financial ground.

His optimism and faith inspired the others to attempt and accomplish things which they would have otherwise despaired of doing.

An important factor in the success and programme of the Association has been the help afforded by the ladies.

Their tastefulness has added to the brightness of the rooms, and their labors have resulted in the raising of very substantial sums of money for the furnishing of the various buildings. It is not out of place to mention that the first subscription towards the rehabilitation to the finances in 1894 was donated by a lady.

The recollections of more than a quarter of a century in Association work could easily afford material for much more extended writing were such expedient.

Suffice it to say that in looking back over that period it is a joy to reflect that, notwithstanding changes of administration, there has never been a departure from the evangelical basis on which

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our Associations rest, and that in all the diversity of operations which have come with changing years, the one aim has been steadily pursued, and that was the development of young men in a well-rounded and symmetrical manhood.

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FROM HONORABLE JUSTICE J. J. MACLAREN, OF THE  
ONTARIO COURT OF APPEAL

I came to Toronto in 1884. Having been a director of the Montreal Young Men's Christian Association when I left Montreal, the Toronto Association put me on their Board. Honorable S. H. Blake was the President and Alfred Sandham, Secretary. The Toronto Association was at a low ebb, with only 247 members, and of these 71 were honorary, i.e. ministers interested in the work of the Association.

Shaftesbury Hall was an unattractive building, out of repair and not suitable for the work of the Association. A movement began in the Board shortly after I joined to sell the old building and move farther up town. Mr. Blake was strongly averse to this, his view being that we should remain down town, where there were so many counter attractions to lead young men astray. The other members of the Board, as well as the survivors of the founders and large contributors to the building of Shaftesbury Hall, such as Senator John Macdonald, Senator Wm. McMaster, D. M. McLean and others, came to approve of the move. Mr. Blake finally yielded, and the site on the corner of Yonge and McGill Streets was secured.

Mr. Sandham, having accepted another position, a new Secretary, Wm. McCulloch, was appointed. The officers and members entered upon a vigorous campaign to increase the membership. The following year in the old building the membership was more than doubled, and the first year in the new building that number was again more than trebled, the gymnasium being particularly attractive, and new features, such as night educational classes, admitting college students, policemen, etc., on special terms, being added.

During all this time, even when the membership was at the lowest, the religious work of the Association was faithfully carried on. Special reference should be made to the services rendered during later years in Shaftesbury Hall and the early ones in the Yonge Street building by the late Stapleton Caldecott, as Vice-President. Mr. Blake, the President, on account of the great pressure of other duties, was frequently unable to attend the meetings of the Board, etc., and Mr. Caldecott was always ready and willing to take his place, often on very short notice.



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## FROM MR. WILLIAM GARSIDE

Coming to Toronto 33 years ago, I united with the Association here. This was in the days of Shaftesbury Hall and Mr. Alfred Sandham as Secretary. It is 32 years ago that my more definite knowledge of the work of the Association began, on election to the Board of Directors when a very young man. At that time the work was carried on very earnestly, very efficiently and very aggressively, under the leadership of such men as the late John Macdonald as President, Honorable S. H. Blake, Vice-President, and Robert Kilgour, Treasurer. The debt which the Association and the young men of those days in this city owe to these three men and the other leaders can never be fully told, and will never be known until the final accounts are made up. Men of outstanding ability, busy men, yet they gave freely of their time to the development of Association work in this city.

At that time it was comparatively unknown to the great majority of our citizens. The cause was, in a sense, a new one, and thus to the men whose co-operation and gifts were desired the purposes of the Association must all be explained. The outstanding influence, therefore, of men such as I have mentioned was essential if any great progress was to be made. Toronto was not a place of great wealth at that time, and the population was a fifth or a sixth part of what it is now. Contributions were in like proportion, but every dollar was made to count in work done.

In those days, before the Churches carried on so thorough a work for their younger members, it was easier to gather an audience of young men for a religious meeting than at the present time, and thus a very effective work was done for the young men of the much smaller city.

One of my recollections of those days was the holding of a Sunday afternoon meeting for railway men in the waiting-room of the railway station. This was, I think, one of the very first beginnings of work for railroad men, as our Association was also the pioneer in definite work at the summer militia camps, out of which has grown the present extended work in behalf of enlisted men, both volunteers and army men, in many countries.

Shaftesbury Hall, in those days, was the centre of nearly all the inter-denominational Christian work, as it was also the meeting place for conventions; and being the largest hall in the city, in it were given the leading concerts and lectures, for in those days lectures, even a series of them, during the winter season, would draw good audiences.

But the work outgrew Shaftesbury Hall, as the city also outgrew that location, and the move was made to the present building. Other leading men of the city served the Association as President, such as Stapleton Caldecott and Mr. Justice Maclaren. The work passed through a time of shadow, through over-expansion and consequent financial pressure, and at one time seemed almost likely to close its doors. At this juncture Frank M. Pratt was called to the Secretaryship from Hamilton, and the Hon. S. H. Blake consented to again become President. Then came many strenuous years of extremely hard work, both to lift the Association from its almost slough of debt, and at the same

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time have it perform more fully the service it might be capable of doing for the young men of Toronto. Headway was made, slowly at first, but yet steadily, until after fifteen years or more the Association won the high place it has enjoyed during recent years in the estimation of all right-thinking men for the service, both social and spiritual, it renders to the young men and boys of this larger Toronto.

During the latter two or three years of the fifteen, the thoughts and desires of those called to leadership in the work were never for any length of time withdrawn from the growing needs of a better building and more suitable equipment. The premises were more than congested; every square yard of space was the scene of some beneficent activity. Perhaps never has a building more unsuited to modern needs witnessed so fruitful a work long after the premises were obsolete. Educational, social and religious work crowded upon each other, all of them bringing forth fruit in the lives of men.

We were earnestly looking towards a financial campaign to provide funds for new buildings before I came to the Presidency in 1907. Other claims upon the Christian public must be considered and made way for, and the financial clouds such as in 1908 hindered us. But preparations were steadily gone on with. Friends who were able to give largely were kept informed of the fruitful work being done.

During the period of Mr. Pratt's service there was not, I believe, a single year in which the current expenses were not fully met and some progress also made towards the lifting of the heavy burden of debt. Only those who passed through those years know in even slight degree what was done, because of what there was to do. The fair-weather friends stood discreetly (?) aside, but most of our splendid men stayed with the cause.

We looked always forward to the extension of the work, and a legacy during our darker days of some \$5,000 was made to answer the purpose of securing the property which ultimately almost doubled the selling value later of our buildings. This was done by the co-operation of men who pledged part of their private worth to carry out the purchase.

The coming of Mr. Warburton enabled us to renew our preparations for the financial campaign, which is of such recent date as to be within the knowledge of all our friends. Personally, I never had the slightest doubt of its success whenever properly launched. Faith in God, in the value of the Association's work for young men and boys, and in the liberality of the citizens of Toronto towards so worthy a cause—these and the enthusiasm begotten of them were the mainspring of our success.

And now, as we are to enter upon our new property and the new era in our work, it will not, I am sure, be with the feeling of what we have accomplished in providing so splendid a plant, but with the feeling of increased responsibility of the opportunity such a splendid equipment makes possible. If we do not fail in faith or in earnest effort to train for highest use and to inspire to highest ambition the young men and boys of Toronto, and above all lead them to a personal knowledge of Christ as a Saviour.



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The three years' service in the position of President of the Toronto Young Men's Christian Association will be remembered always by me with every feeling of thankfulness for the Christian fellowship with its splendid men; for their constant and hearty co-operation. The intense work left its mark on me, but the results shown in the influence upon the lives of thousands of young men and boys are more than sufficient to repay, besides the greater opportunity opening for the future years.

The Toronto Association has performed a notable service for the whole work, in the men who have been trained and sent out to other fields. Many of these might be named. No association in Canada has surpassed Toronto in this regard, even if any have equalled it.

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FROM D. A. BUDGE, MONTREAL

In the year 1870 I made my first visit from Newmarket to Toronto and as I had been employed in a printing office in that town, I secured employment with a printing firm named Bell, Barker & Company, on the west side of Yonge Street, between King and Adelaide Streets.

I secured a boarding place in Ritchie's Terrace on Adelaide Street. Some of the companionships that I made in the boarding house and some of those I was compelled to mingle with in the printing office were not such as to help me in forming right ideals of life. I found myself attracted and fascinated by this companionship, and as the city and its interests were entirely new to me, I was easily led by these young men into paths which would eventually have been my ruin.

Fortunately there was a young man employed in the printing office named George Thompson, whose home was in Toronto and who immediately sought to draw me away from these companionships, which he saw were injurious. His ideals of life were entirely different. He was a member of the Young Men's Christian Association and invited me to join the Association also. I had never heard of such an organization, and on enquiry as to its object I decided I did not care to join. However, he continued his invitations, and finally on one Saturday evening, when I was coming along Adelaide Street to Yonge, he met me on the corner, where he was handing out invitation cards to the young men's meeting, and was so persistent in his invitation that I felt I could not shake him off without being rude and so I decided to go with him and see the Association for half an hour.

The rooms were then situated on King Street over Lonsborough's broker's office, next to the old Globe office, and about opposite where the King Edward Hotel now stands. We went up a narrow stair and entered a couple of rooms which both together seemed to have an area of not more than twenty by forty feet.

The young men's meeting was in progress when we entered. I was surprised to see a young man acting as Chairman, and after listening to his address and the other speakers, the meeting closed

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and I was introduced to some of those present, amongst whom was Mr. T. J. Wilkie, the then Secretary of the Association. He especially pressed upon me the importance of becoming a Christian.

As I returned home that evening I did not recall anything that was said, but this impression has ever since been on my mind concerning that meeting. I felt that these men were right in their views of life and I was wrong. This impression of the meeting followed me during the week and at the earnest solicitation of George Thompson I returned on the following Saturday evening to the Association. As a result of this second meeting I was led to definitely consider the Christian life.

I shall never forget when on Sunday morning Mr. R. D. Richardson, who lived on Bay Street, called upon me to take me to church and afterwards took me to dinner at his home. I was greatly impressed by this courtesy extended to me by an entire stranger, and particularly impressed by the kind hospitality of his home. Mr. R. D. Richardson is now a business man in Winnipeg.

Apart from the Secretary, Mr. Wilkie, and amongst those whom I recollect at these meetings were Mr. Harry Thompson, now manager for the Copp Clark Company; Mr. John Adams, now Inspector of the Bank of Toronto.

Through these companions I immediately began to attend the Bond Street Congregational Church, the pastor of which was Mr. F. H. Marling, who lived on Grosvenor Street. I have a most distinct recollection of the great kindness and personal interest which the Rev. Mr. Marling took in me at that time. I can recall his coming into the printing office where I was employed and standing at my case, his hand resting upon my shoulder, and giving me some words of encouragement and help, which I greatly needed at the time. I can also recall his kindness in inviting me to his home. These social attentions were greatly valued and, as I look back, had an important place in affecting my life. I finally united with his Church. I particularly recall attendance at Bible classes conducted by Mr. George Hague, who was then Manager of the Bank of Toronto.

As a result of my joining the Association I immediately began to improve myself, and through counsel from a young man named Bengough, who was a fellow printer at that time, I started to learn shorthand, studying by myself. This study finally led me out of the printing office and enabled me to take a position as a reporter and foreman of the Port Hope Times, which compelled my leaving Toronto.

At the time I went to Port Hope an Association was under consideration and through an introduction given me by Mr. Wilkie to Mr. Wm. Craig, a tanner in Port Hope, I came into association with a group of men who were active in organizing an Association for that town, and had great pleasure in co-operating with them. Mr. Craig kindly invited me to his home, and it was there that I met his son, Mr. Wm. Craig, who is now of the firm of Wickett & Craig, Toronto, and whose friendship and co-operation was of great value to me at the time. And it has been a pleasure to have counted him as one of my life-long friends.



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FROM REV. J. MUNRO GIBSON, D.D., LONDON, ENGLAND

I was one of those who attended the very earliest meetings for the starting of a Young Men's Christian Association in Toronto, but I am sorry to say that I cannot claim to have been an inspiring force in its formation. My inspirer in the matter was John Campbell, afterwards Professor of Theology in the Montreal Presbyterian College. It was at his invitation that I joined in the movement. I have no notes of particulars and my recollections are dim, so that I cannot tell how it progressed. I confess I was not sanguine, for its first meetings were exceedingly small; and it is very encouraging to find that we builded better than we knew. My last session in Toronto was in 1864, and before the year had ended I was settled in Montreal; this probably accounts for my inability to recall anything except the very first steps that were taken.



INAUGURAL BANQUET OF THE BUILDING CAMPAIGN, KING EDWARD HOTEL, APRIL 28, 1910



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# THE GREAT CAMPAIGN OF 1910

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## THE COMPLETE ORGANIZATION

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### THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE BUILDING CAMPAIGN

Chairman.....G. H. WOOD  
Managing Secretary.....C. S. WARD  
Executive Secretary.....G. A. WARBURTON

E. R. Wood, William Garside, Thomas Bradshaw, Harry Ryrie, S. J. Moore, Thomas Findley, Alexander Laird, Noel Marshall, J. E. Atkinson, John Turnbull, W. A. Kemp, John Northway, Thomas Roden.

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### JOINT BUILDING COMMITTEE

Chairman.....W. A. KEMP

Harry Ryrie, John Turnbull, J. M. Godfrey, W. G. MacKendrick, W. H. Scott, S. Henderson.

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### BUSINESS MEN'S COMMITTEE

Chairman.....HARRY RYRIE

Team I—Thomas Allen, Captain.

J. W. Lind, John Westren, S. W. Black, A. W. Briggs, G. M. Hendry, Walter Miller, P. E. Grand, Bertram Martin.

Team II—Thos. Bradshaw, Captain.

H. C. Cox, R. Junkin, J. J. Taylor, Dr. D. Lowrey, G. H. Hunt, I. B. Thayer, E. Willans, J. A. Tory, R. J. Stuart, E. E. Boreham, C. W. I. Woodland.

Team III—R. W. Eaton, Captain.

William Garside, T. R. Parker, J. J. Copeland, H. Fairhead, Harry McGee, J. N. McKendry, R. G. Kirby, Mr. McAlpine, J. A. Jackson.

Team IV—E. D. Fraser, Captain.

T. A. Brown, Walter J. Barr, C. H. Willson, H. W. Murray, A. D. Morrow, E. Gordon Wills, Wallace Anderson, H. L. Rous, E. J. Hathaway.

Team V—J. M. Godfrey, Captain.

F. H. Deacon, G. A. Morrow, W. G. MacKendrick, J. H. Gundy, C. W. Chadwick, C. J. Atkinson, A. T. Reid, G. Frank Beer, J. C. Fraser.

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Team VI—S. Henderson, Captain.

Walter Hartland Smith, Thomas Findley, J. C. Stewart, D. E. Hughes, John Sparrow, Henry Sutherland, W. H. Shapley, R. B. Rice, H. Adams.

Team VII—E. L. McLean, Captain.

J. F. M. Stewart, Martin N. Merry, H. A. Sherrard, Joseph M. West, Percy L. Robertson, F. G. Hearne, A. S. Wigmore.

Team VIII—J. G. Merrick, Captain.

S. M. Wickett, J. J. Gibson, R. J. Clark, L. Burwash, J. Clark, K.C., H. C. Osborne, R. C. Matthews, William Craig, Dr. Ralph E. Hooper.

Team IX—R. Southam, Captain.

F. W. Baillie, C. S. Band, R. Laidlaw, Jr., Fred. Sparling, C. B. McNaught, Alfred Rogers, Fred. H. Ross, F. A. Rolph, Ralph Burns.

Team X—G. H. Wood, Captain.

J. E. Atkinson, J. J. Gartshore, A. F. Webster, W. C. Brent, M. Rawlinson, Norman Bastedo, E. S. Dean, W. G. Watson, W. Murray Alexander.

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## CITIZENS' COMMITTEE

Chairman.....E. R. WOOD

Lieutenant-Governor Gibson

Sir James P. Whitney

The Mayor—G. R. Geary

Atkinson, J. E.; Ames, A. E.; Ansley, A.; Austin, A. W.; Auden, Principal; Bristol, Edmund, M.P.; Blaikie, John L.; Burwash, Chancellor; Broughall, George; Cox, Hon. George A.; Clarkson, E. R. C.; Crawford, Thomas, M.P.P.; Cummings, C. C.; Clark, Sir Mortimer, W. S.; Dunstan, K. J., Davison, Dr. John L.; Ellis, P. W.; Eaton, J. C.; Falconer, President, R. A.; Fergusson, G. Tower; Fudger, H. H.; Flavelle, J. W., LL.D.; Firstbrook, John; Fleming, R. J.; Garside, William; Gartshore, J. J.; Gandier, Principal A.; Gage, W. J.; Gurney, Edward; Gunn, Andrew; George, W. K.; Gibson, R. E.; Houser, J. H.; Harmer, R.; Hanna, D. B.; Henderson, Joseph; Hoyles, N. W., K.C., LL.D.; Harris, Rev. Dr. Elmore; Howland, Peleg; Irving, T. C.; Ivey, John D.; Jarvis, Aemilius; Kemp, A. E., M.P.; Kinnear, Thomas; Laird, Alexander; Lash, Z. A., K.C., LL.D.; Marshall, Noel; Macdonald, Dr. J. A.; MacLean, W. F., M.P.; Maclaren, Mr. Justice; Murray, G. M.; Miller, J. B.; Malone, E. T., K.C.; Massey, Chester D.; Moore, S. J.; Massey, John; McNaught, W. K., M.P.P.; Macdonald, John; Macklem, Provost; McKay, Chancellor; Macdonald, Principal, D. B.; Morrow, Geo. A.; Macrea, H. H.; Mann, D. D.; Morley, F. G.; Macpherson, W. D., M.P.P.; Murphy, J. E.; Northway, John; O'Meara, Principal, T.R.; Pellatt, Sir Henry M.; Pearson, W. H.; Peuchen, Major A. G.; Paterson, J. A., K.C.; Ross, W. D.; Ryckman, E. B., K.C.; Rowell, N. W., K.C.; Ryrie, James;



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Russell, Joseph, M.P.; Rogers, Elias; Richardson, H. A.; Reeve, Dr. R. A.; Shenstone, J. N.; Starr, J. R. L., K.C.; Scholfield, G. P.; Stark, John; Somers, George T.; Somerville, George A.; Strathy, Stuart; Thomson, D. E., K.C.; Vogt, Dr. A. S.; Wood, E. R.; Williams, H. H.; Walker, Byron E., LL.D. C.V.O.; Wilkie, D. R.; Woods, J. W.; Whiteside, T. R., M.P.P.; Wyld, Frederick; Williamson, J. S.

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## YOUNG MEN'S COMMITTEE

Chairman.....JOHN TURNBULL

Team A—C. H. Ashley, Captain.

F. D. Young, A. C. Kirby, J. H. Stafford.

Team B—R. L. Blaney, Captain.

Henry Ward, W. J. Farnley, W. T. Clipperton.

Team C—W. W. Digby, Captain.

C. M. Fraser, F. H. Stephenson, J. C. Gray, F. S. Jackson, C. W. Hagerman, F. R. Spence, R. W. Scott.

Team D—P. L. Fraser, Captain.

H. G. Allan, P. R. Brecken, E. G. Baker, Dr. W. A. Black, Dr. S. L. Frawley, H. Russell, J. R. Richards, Fred. W. Bond, J. R. Page.

Team E—J. B. Gould, Captain.

O. P. Johnston, I. R. Lewis, W. Charles, F. L. Summerhayes, H. E. Weller, John Brick, W. Dobson, J. Alder, J. W. Beaton, H. R. Frost.

Team F—P. F. Grand, Captain.

C. E. Abbs, C. T. Ellis, W. G. Ferguson, H. F. Fisher, B. H. Edwards, G. Hall, Chas. Turner Grand.

Team G—J. Lawrason, Captain.

A. F. Ball, W. A. Armstrong, R. C. Murray, Walt. Amos, Gordon Campbell, J. J. MacLeod.

Team H—A. G. Malcolm, Captain.

Wm. Inrig, W. M. Douglas, John H. Phelan, John Gibson, W. B. Woods, H. J. Scott, Osler Wade, F. W. Tisdale, H. S. Harwood.

Team K—F. G. Mara, Captain.

Jas. Gouinlock, Geo. Hyams, H. Thornton, W. Gladdish, A. J. Hardy, N. H. Crow, J. Watchorn, W. E. Ireland.

Team L—W. McTavish, Captain.

R. J. Dunlop, H. Phillips, Jasper Wilson, Geo. Dunning, Chas. Walters, E. J. Moore, W. W. Anderson, R. A. Sara, L. Smith.

Team M—H. M. Peacock, Captain.

B. Galbraith, J. G. Near, Jas. Brydon, H. B. Crow, T. F. Livingston, Bert Coakwell, Bruce Sutherland, Bert Goldsboro.

H. H. Distin, S. Vogan, R. I. Parks, G. Elliott, H. O. Kerr, Jack Tait, J. A. Goddard, J. W. Peacock.

H. Shapley, F. W. Young, H. Sutherland, W. W. Holford, W. W. Wallace, W. W. Worthington.

G. Billinghamurst, J. A. Scythes, Ross Thomson, Archie Bolton, S. Sylvester, Chas. Bauckham.  
Ed. Parks, Ivan Anthony.

Chas. Bully, D. D. Ross, A. W. Allington, F. J. Smith, J. J. Traill, S. C. Blacklock, W. R. Pollock, A. F. Park.

A. G. Donaldson, Chas. R. Rooke, W. E. Bickle, C. F. Richardson, W. A. Newell, W. A. Hines,  
J. H. Bickle.

J. A. Findlay, Fred H. Brigden, H. W. Crossen, R. J. Dilworth, J. C. Webster, F. McFarquhar,  
Dr. J. E. Rhind, J. K. Shuttleworth, J. E. Fergusson.



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## CHAPTER VIII.

### OTHER ASSOCIATION DEVELOPMENTS IN TORONTO

ASSOCIATION work in Toronto outside of that at the Central building has included the Branches of the Association and the Association in the University of Toronto. It was not until 1912 that a Metropolitan form of organization was adopted by the Board of Directors, by which the relation of the Central Branch became exactly the same as that of any other branch. In the Building Campaign and in the years that have followed all of the Association interests have worked as one. The current expenses required have been raised by joint effort, last year (1912) witnessing the crowning of all, when nearly \$46,000 was secured in a campaign covering three days.

#### THE WEST END BRANCH

The West End Branch of the Young Men's Christian Association, now the Toronto West End Young Men's Christian Association, has had a long and honorable history.

Early in the year 1879 Mr. W. E. Burford, who was employed as a blacksmith at the Canadian Pacific Railway Shops, held meetings occasionally among the employees of that organization. It was proposed to organize the West End Y.M.C.A., and meetings to this end were held at the Credit Valley C.P.R. station, Queen Street West. Finally, in 1882, the Railway and West End Branch of the Young Men's Christian Association was formed, with Mr. William Whyte as Chairman and Mr. W. E. Burford as Secretary. Rooms were opened at No. 1,020 Queen Street West, the official opening being held on April 22nd, 1883. On July 2nd of the same year the Ladies' Auxiliary was organized.

On January 14th, 1887, the Association was re-organized as a branch of the Central Association, with Mr. Samuel J. Moore as President and Mr. Alex. Weir as Secretary. The officers for 1887-88 were:—Samuel J. Moore, Chairman; Reuben R. Jamieson,

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Vice-Chairman; John C. Burt, M.D., Treasurer; William O'Dell, Librarian; Alex. Weir, General Secretary; and A. Witmer, Financial Secretary. Committee of Management: D. D. Christie, J. Roney, J. Wanless, Jr., W. Wesbroom, A. H. Welch, W. J. Dempster, W. O'Dell, T. Jackson, S. J. Moore, V. Batstone, Alfred Batho, E. H. Roberts, A. Witmer, G. T. Stickells, Byron House, J. C. Burt, M.D., J. Staunton, R. R. Jamieson, and A. Cunningham. Ladies' Auxiliary: (Rev.) Mrs. J. Alexander, President; Mrs. A. Witmer, Vice-President; Miss. A. Elkins, Secretary; and Mrs. W. Rose, Treasurer.

On March 15th, 1908, Mr. A. E. Marling and Mr. R. C. Morse, of the International Committee of the Young Men's Christian Association, met with representatives of the Central and West End Associations, and the outlines of an agreement were drawn up which, when endorsed by the West End Committee, made the West End an independent Association under its own charter. At this time Mr. S. J. Moore was Chairman of the Committee of Management and Mr. Thomas Findley Vice-Chairman, with Mr. Alfred Stokes as Secretary.

The West End Association occupied its building at the corner of Queen and Dovercourt Streets from 1887 to 1912, when the handsome new building, costing \$179,462.62, at the corner of College Street and Dovercourt Road, was occupied. The work of the West End Association is exceedingly vigorous, not only in the building, but among the shops and factories of the West End. It leads the Associations of Canada in the number of foreign-speaking young men learning English in its classes, the enrolment for 1912-13 having been 592.

## THE RAILWAY WORK

In a letter from Mr. J. M. Dudley, Railroad Secretary for Canada, he says:

"In 1896 the Grand Trunk made a donation of \$90 per month, the first corporate donation ever made in Canada by a Railway Company for the support of the Railway Young Men's Christian Association, at East Toronto, and E. M. Cook came as Secretary.



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A year later Mr. C. M. Hayes, the father of the Railroad Department in Canada from the Railroad side, fitted up and furnished the old Canada Northern Railway offices on Spadina Avenue and made a contribution of \$90 per month for maintenance. He made a very strong and business-like address at the opening. Sir Charles Rivers Wilson, of London, at that time Chairman of the Grand Trunk Board, visited the building, was most favorably impressed with the character of the work and supported Mr. Hayes in his extension of the work along the Grand Trunk line. Mr. S. H. Blake was a great help in counselling with us, as in the matter of legal arrangements. He was at that time President of the Toronto Association and presided at the opening of the building. Mr. R. L. Nelles was the first Chairman of the Department. Thos. McGillicuddy, Robert Kilgour, Frank Roper, Rev. Dr. Parsons were some of the staunch friends of those early days."

With the transfer of the employees of the Grand Trunk Railway from East Toronto and the opening of the Mimico Railway Yards, the branch that had been organized there became far more important and has developed a very strong work. The East Toronto Branch has been changed to one for city young men, the building originally erected there for the Railroad Branch being used for the benefit of the whole community.



RAILWAY BRANCH, MIMICO

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## THE BROADVIEW BRANCH

The Broadview Branch had its foundation in the Boys' Institute, conducted for many years by Mr. C. J. Atkinson. It

was decided to take over this Institution and incorporate it as a Branch in connection with the Building Campaign of 1910. As a result, the fine new building was formally opened on March 4th, 1912, and is one of the best equipped structures of its kind in the country. The membership stands at 925, and a many-sided work is being successfully carried on under Paul R. Brecken, B.A.Sc., Secretary.



BROADVIEW BOYS' BUILDING

## UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION

In the words of the Minute Book of that date, in the year 1871, some of the undergraduates of this University, actuated by a love for their fellow students and a desire for the Glory of God, thought that it would be advisable to establish some means of grace during the Academic year, so that those who were Christians might be more united and strengthened, and that there might be a good influence thrown around those who knew not God, that while gaining knowledge necessary to temporal success, they might be induced to get true wisdom, "the fear of the Lord," and true understanding, "to depart from evil." To this end, F. H. Wallace (now Dean of Victoria) and some of his friends organized a Prayer Meeting which met regularly every Saturday in the Arts Building. The necessity of a permanent organization to conduct this Prayer Meeting led to the formation of the University College Young Men's Christian Association, which,



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after being officially discountenanced by the College Council, was later officially recognized by them on the earnest solicitation of a larger group of undergraduates. In March, 1873, the Association officially came into existence.

For the next ten years the main business of the Association was the holding of the regular Prayer Meeting, the election of new members to the Association, and the supplying of religious literature to the Reading Room of the College Literary Society. In the year 1880 the Association attempted to obtain the names of the Freshmen entering College in order to render them any assistance possible, thus instituting what has now come to be a very important part of our work.

The same year the form of Constitution in use in American Colleges was adopted. In accordance with this constitution committees on Membership, Religious Work, Missions and Correspondence were organized. The work of the Missionary Committee was to conduct meetings in a Mission on Frederick Street and assist in the News-Boys' Home. Thus in 1883 the Association began to take an interest in the religious and philanthropic life of the City—an interest which has to-day so intensified as to send over a hundred men into social work during each session and to found the University Settlement.

In the year 1885 the Association decided to have a building of its own. The University provided the site, generous graduates and citizens subscribed \$5,000.00, and the first building ever to be used by a College Association solely for its own work was erected in the University of Toronto. Many of the wealthy American Universities have since followed the worthy precedent set by our Association. In April of 1886, a part-time General Secretary was appointed on a salary of \$400.00. The following year the Secretary gave his whole time at a salary of \$600.00.

In 1888 the Association sent to Korea as its special representative in the foreign field, G. S. Gale, a graduate. The Annual Report for the year 1888-9 shows a membership of 310, about 35 or 40 men in Bible Classes and twenty-eight regular Meetings during the Term.

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Since the organization of the University College Association, Associations have been organized in six other Colleges. In 1904 a Federation of these was completed, creating the University of Toronto Young Men's Christian Association.

In 1909 steps were taken by the students to obtain a new Building, on account of the inadequacy of the present one, and when the Building Campaign was organized the University Associations joined in it. It was at that time that the Massey Estate generously offered to provide the University Association a building. This gift was enlarged to the presentation to the University of Hart House, comprising Gymnasium, Dining Hall, Students' Union and Young Men's Christian Association. This building is now in course of erection at a cost of over \$1,000,000.

## THE WORK OF THE LADIES

In all the work the Association has been able to do during the years of its history, the assistance of Christian women of the community has been continuous and very important. They have not only secured considerable amounts of money, which they have used for the furnishings and beautifying of the various buildings, but they have constantly added the refining influence of woman's presence in connection with social events, and have done much to secure favourable sentiment towards the Association throughout the entire community.

## FOREIGN WORK

Ever since the organization of the Foreign Work Department of the International Committee, the Toronto Associations have been liberal supporters of that work. The Toronto Association and its Branches, and the other Association interests in the City, contribute to this Foreign Work the sum of \$3,977.00 annually.



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## A STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE DIRECTORS REGARDING THE PRESENT GENERAL SECRETARY

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Mr. Pratt's retirement from the position of Secretary came at a time when, if the Association were to seize its opportunities in Toronto, a wise, strong and progressive Christian man must be found to lead the work. After long and earnest search Mr. Warburton was invited to fill the position, and assumed the duties in June, 1909. One of the conditions upon which he came to Toronto was that within a reasonable time the Directors would erect a new building. That pledge the Directors would undoubtedly have fulfilled, but to Mr. Warburton himself is due in a large measure the four-fold fulfilment in the erection of the University, Broadview, West End and Central Buildings.

Coming to the city almost a perfect stranger about four years ago, when the Association had not as many friends as it has to-day and when its future was somewhat indefinite, Mr. Warburton won the confidence and esteem of his Directors by throwing himself unreservedly into the situation and identifying himself in a strong, earnest and hearty manner with the great building campaign. The plans which he made, the assistance given and the splendid spirit which he exhibited throughout the whole of the stirring and eventful effort in no small measure contributed to its great success, while the services since rendered by him in the collection, management and expenditure of the funds, and in the erection and equipment of the new buildings, have indicated to your Directors that he possesses excellent judgment combined with executive ability of a high order. Thousands of citizens and Association members have contributed towards the achievement of erecting the Central and other three buildings, but the vision has been Mr. Warburton's and his has been the guiding spirit throughout.

Born in Bristol, England, and trained in some of the best Associations of the United States, Mr. Warburton, serving one Association as Secretary for twenty-five years, was peculiarly fitted to lead here and brought with him many helpful elements. His knowledge of and experience in Association work, coupled with his wide personal connection, have already proved extremely valuable and of great practical service to your Association; while his ability to successfully organize and choose suitable leaders and surround



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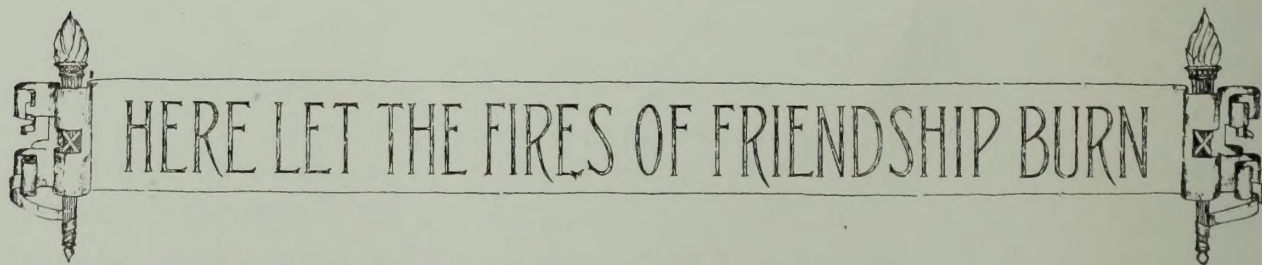
himself with loyal workers and supporters, has tended to make possible the carrying on of the Association's work in the city on a scale somewhat commensurate with its needs and opportunities. Moreover, what has already been accomplished in Toronto by him has given, it is believed, Association work generally, throughout the whole Dominion, a tremendous impulse.

His sympathies, which are broad and generous, are not merely confined to Association work. It was chiefly through Mr. Warburton's activities and influence that the recent successful \$100,000 campaign of the Salvation Army for the purpose of securing funds for a Training School was put in motion and successfully carried through.

Possessing in a very marked degree a faith which never wavers, a heart which is intensely sympathetic, a mind which is continuously planning for bigger and better things, a nature which is full of kindness and gentleness and an earnest desire to render the highest and best service for the Master, the Directors feel that the Association's work in Toronto, under his guidance, will continue to be of a high character and that it will keep pace with the magnificent opportunities which the field presents.

What the erection, equipment and direction of the new University, Broadview, West End and Central Buildings will mean to the young men of our city we cannot estimate, and of infinitely greater value is the earnest Christian spirit which has been instilled into the entire work by Mr. Warburton.

HARRY RYRIE,  
Vice-President.



MOTTO ON FIRE-PLACE IN MAIN HALL, CENTRAL BUILDING



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\$ 3<sup>00</sup>



